

MULTIMEDIA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR LEARNING AND ONLINE TEACHING (MERLOT) (Website Review)

Site URL

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

Contact for Site

MERLOT

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SITE TITLE

Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT)

ABOUT MERLOT

MERLOT is one of the most famous learning object repositories that contain thousands of learning materials in various formats which can be accessed and used for faculty, staff and students on the Web, freely. With a continually growing collection of online learning materials, peer reviews and assignments, MERLOT helps faculty enhance instruction. MERLOT is also a community of people who strive to enrich teaching and learning experiences. This home page statement from the MERLOT project not only points us to such teaching materials, it also provides peer reviews that help us evaluate them. MERLOT

was created by the California State University-Center for Distributed Learning in 1997.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SITE

MERLOT is a leading edge, user-centered, searchable collection of peer reviewed and selected higher education, online learning objects, catalogued by registered members and a set of faculty development support services. MERLOT's vision is to be a premiere online community where faculty, staff and students from around the world share their learning objects and pedagogy. MERLOT's main goal is to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning by increasing the quantity and quality of peer reviewed online learning objects for the various disciplines represented in the communities that can be easily incorporated into faculty designed courses.

Intended Audience

MERLOT is built on the collaboration of its partners, community members, registered members, and users.

Usefulness and Richness

MERLOT has institutional partners working together to support and maintain MERLOT's Discipline Communities. The discipline communities include, but are not limited to, languages. They are focused primarily around academic disciplines (Biology, Business, Chemistry, Engineering, Health Science, History, Information Technology, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Psychology, Statistics, Teacher Education and of course World Languages). In addition, there is a community for faculty development and one for academic technology staff. The collection can be sorted by title, author, rating, date entered or item type, with the default sort order being by five star rated materials first. Many of languages represented by materials submissions and online resources. Some of them are Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Useful External Links

There is a MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT) which is a peer-reviewed, open access, online publication addressing the scholarly use of multimedia resources in online education. JOLT is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. In addition to there have been international conferences announcement that organized in different country every year since 2001 by MERLOT.

Structure and Navigation

The web sites, organization of knowledge is not complicated and easy to use, the transition between pages is smooth and the pages operate properly. The site has a well-designed, and it's easy to move from link to another one. It's easy to read. It is easy and fast to navigate. There's search engine. It is not use color variation in the site, paid attention to color harmony and did not use animations in the site.

Connectivity

That's easy to connect to the MERLOT's site as long as the user has a Java supported browser.

FINALLY

MERLOT continues to invite institutional partners and professional discipline organizations to join the cooperative endeavor. It is recognizes that the scope of coordination activities and the requirements for sustaining MERLOT is rapidly increasing. Maturing the organization is critical for its long-term success. To that end, MERLOT is advancing the current collaborative framework, exploring a variety of business models, and developing its sustainability plan so MERLOT can serve the current and future academic technology needs of faculty, students, staff and institutions. MERLOT can provide examples that faculty can adapt for their own classes as well as provide an evaluative source of peer assessment of learning objects faculty submit to MERLOT for review, encouraging faculty to maintain and improve their instructional materials and provide them with a reward for doing so. MERLOT users can click on the overall rating for more details about the evaluation. Peer reviews are considered to be one of the most important features of MERLOT. It is very important for society because of MERLOT has thousands learning objects in various disciplines and shares of their materials the MERLOT's site.

BIODATA and CONTACT ADDRESSES of REVIEWER



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